

# School Psychology Newsletter

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## SPLASH AT NASP 2014

The School & Community Psychology Program at Seton Hall was represented by several members at the Annual NASP convention in Washington, DC. The convention took place on February 18 through February 21st. The keynote address, by Ross Greene, Ph.D., was titled, *The Lives in the Balance Organization*, was stimulating and thought provoking.

SPLASH student presentations included a poster on *Building Theory of Mind Skills in Children with ASD* by Jennifer Fandino, Donna Batraki, and Kelly Pyburn, and a PIE session on *Reducing Special Education Costs through a Comprehensive Behavior Program* by Brian Yankouski and Megan Francis.

SPLASH Faculty were represented as well. Dr. Massarelli and Brian Yankouski presented on *Developing Comprehensive School Policies of Restraint and Seclusion* and Dr. O'Halloran presented a poster on *Special Education Due Process Hearings*.

Congratulations to all of the presenters at this year's NASP convention!

School  
Psychology  
Leadership  
Association of  
Seton  
Hall

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By: Steve O'Brien

Earlier this month, SPLASH was invited to participate in the inaugural Irvington Family Fun day presented by Irvington Cares. On June 7, Irvington Cares orchestrated an event with various activities for the families of Irvington. The activities available to the people of Irvington included free health screenings, entertainment, sports, and a social skills activity lead by members of SPLASH. At the SPLASH table, Kelly Pyburn (student) lead games that taught valuable lessons like taking turns and playing with other students nicely.

As well as the outdoor festivities of Irvington Cares, there were indoor presentations to allow children and parents to escape the summer heat. Science activities, movement exercises, dramatic readings, and a mindfulness exercise lead by student Sherilyn Ferrari were welcomed changes to the outdoor fun.

SPLASH members were also invited to the first organizational meeting of a committee that is attempting to revive a summer camp for the children of Irvington. The committee brainstormed possible ideas and activities to bring the opportunity of a valuable experience to the families of the city of Irvington.

Irvington Care's first family fun day was a complete success. There were many valuable activities for the families of the city of Irvington. We would like to thank Dan Bender for inviting SPLASH and allowing us to host a table as well as an activity at the library. SPLASH looks forward to more opportunities for collaboration between Irvington Cares and SPLASH, so we can continue to help them complete their mission of "improving the quality of early education and care for all children in Irvington"

## NJASP Reflection

By: Jordan Marcus

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, NJASP held its 2014 Spring Conference in East Windsor, NJ. The conference consisted of two speakers, Dr. Peggy McDonald, Director of the Special Education Office for the state of New Jersey, and Dr. Steven Shaw, professor of Educational and Counseling Psychology at McGill University.

Dr. McDonald opened the conference with her keynote presentation titled, "State-of-the-State in terms of Special Education." Dr. McDonald addressed changes being made to special education at the state level, and how those changes will affect those who work in schools.

Dr. Shaw presented his research on the topic of students with Borderline Intellectual Functioning following Dr. McDonald. Much of Dr. Shaw's research has been focused towards creating interventions for students who fall into the "Borderline Intelligence"

category, as these are the students who often fall through the cracks in the education system. Dr. Shaw's interventions promote academic resilience for the aforementioned students, encouraging academic success despite obstacles the students may face.

The NJASP Winter Conference will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup> in East Windsor, NJ. Presentations and workshops will be provided on the topics of: the WISC-V, the Woodcock Johnson, Mental Health in Schools, Diversity in Schools, and Avoiding LGBTQ, Gender, and Cultural Blind Spots. The keynote presenter will be Steve Brock, the President of NASP.



**School Psychology students strive to become competent, socially conscious, and reflective professionals.**

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## Director's Corner

This past academic year has been very busy for the school psychology program. Students attended conferences at both the state and national level. Students developed posters, engaged in Participant Information Exchange sessions (PIE) and presented at mini-skills workshops. Dr. O'Halloran, one of our adjuncts, presented at the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) convention on Special Education Due Process Hearings. Dr. O'Halloran also presented at Seton Hall as well. Brian Yankouski and Dr. Massarelli were asked to do a podcast presentation on Restraint and Seclusion in the Schools for NASP. You can find the podcast on the NASP website. We also had Dr. John Hanson from Pearson Corporation present on the Q-Interactive and WISC-V. The WISC-V will use I-pad technology to both administer and score the new assessment. The WISC-V is due out in the fall of 2014. The SPLASH organization is also paring up with Mr. Dan Bender, school psychologist, from the Irvington Public School District to participate in the *Irvington Cares* project. Students will take part in a series of fund-raising events to help children and their families with mental health issues. Lastly, congratulations to our December 2013, Ed.S. graduates: Renee Colangelo, Megan Francis, Lauren Lanza, Silvia Moran, Marlody Noda, Komal Patel, Lauren Schaeffer, and Aimee Schwartz. All eight graduates have gotten full-time jobs as school psychologists! Congratulations to all!!!



## Remembering Dr. Thompson-Sard

Dr. Cheryl Thompson-Sard started her career at Seton Hall University in 1987. At that time she was a member of the Clinical Psychology program. Dr. Thompson-Sard has taught many different courses throughout her career but her most famous course was her *Multicultural Counseling & Psychology* course. Dr. Thompson-Sard was superb in finding cinema to enhance the teaching of the many different ethnic groups throughout the world. She made the class fun but most important, she added to the knowledge base of her students when working with diverse clients.

Dr. Thompson was a fun person to be around. Her laugh was contagious; you always knew she was somewhere close when you heard her laugh. Dr. Thompson's areas of research included attachment theory, multiculturalism and juvenile delinquency, to name a few. She mentored many students throughout her career at Seton Hall and was on countless dissertation committees in the Counseling, Clinical and Marriage and Family programs. Her retirement celebration last December was one of fun and good cheer. We wish her well in her retirement. Best wishes to you Dr. Thompson-Sard on your well-deserved retirement!!!



# Congratulations Class of 2014!



Dr. Massarelli with Komal Patel, Megan Francis, Marloody Noda, Silvia Moran, Aimee Schwartz, Renee Colangelo, and Lauren Schaeffer as they graduate from the Ed.S. Program on May 17, 2014 !



Kelly Pyburn, Tia LaBruno, Jillian McManus, Ashley Kellett, and Donna Batraki as they graduate from the MA program on May 17, 2014!

## Upcoming Events:

### APA 2014

August 7-10, 2014

### NJASP Winter Conf.

December 12, 2014

### NASP 2015

February 17-20, 2015

## SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

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